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## PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Patricia Preikschat, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/171,558  
Filing Date: October 19, 1998  
Title: CHROMIUM(IV)-FREE CONVERSION LAYER AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING IT  
Docket No. 31716

RECEIVED  
APR - 5 2000  
OIFE/CHWSVERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS

I hereby declare that I am an officer of the concern identified below and am empowered to act on its behalf.

The concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 for purposes of paying reduced fees, in that the number of employees thereof, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons.

The exclusive rights to the invention described and claimed in the above-identified application have been conveyed to and remain with the concern, or if the rights are not exclusive, all other rights belong to small entities as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.9.

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

CONTINENTAL SURFACE TREATMENT, INC.

By: 

[signature]

Print Name: KARL H. LINDEMANN

Print Title: CEO

Date: 5-12-1999

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APR 10 2000  
TOL 700 MAIL ROOM

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**VERIFIED STATEMENT CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS**

I hereby declare that I am an officer of the concern identified below or hold a position equivalent to that of an officer in a United States corporation and am empowered to act on its behalf.

The concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.9 for purposes of paying reduced fees, in that the number of employees thereof, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons.

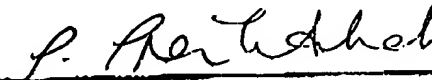
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SURTEC PRODUKTE UND SYSTEM FÜR DIE  
OBERFLÄCHENBEHANDLUNG GMBH

By:

  
[signature]

Print Name:

Patricia Preikschat

Print Title:

General Manager

Date:

May 12, 1999